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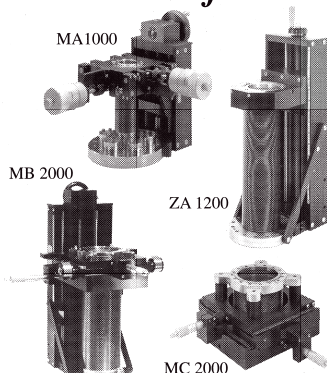
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and to protect whistleblowers.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was one of the earliest to be ready, announcing its policy in early December. Paul Sandifer, who led the effort to draft the NOAA policy, says it spells out that "not only are scientists expected to work with integrity, but those who manage must also commit to noninterference and no effort to suppress, distort, or alter scientific findings." The policy also states that NOAA scientists are free to speak to the media without first obtaining clearance, and that they can voice their personal opinions, as long as they indicate when they are doing so.

John Holdren, assistant to the president and director of OSTP, wrote on the office's blog that the new policies, which were created at the direction of President Obama, "will help ensure that federally supported science and scientific information remain undiluted and untainted—not only for policymakers but also for the public." TF

Astronomy education and jobs. In 2009 and 2010, US astronomy education saw new highs, including enrollment in introductory courses, numbers of graduate students, and numbers of bachelor's degrees conferred. That's according to a new report by the Statistical Research Center of the American Institute of Physics. A separate new report by the SRC looks at ini-

tial employment of astronomy degree recipients.

In 2010, 382 astronomy bachelor's degrees were conferred, with 36% going to women. The same year, 156 astronomy doctorates were awarded—nearly double the number awarded 30 years ago. The proportion earned by women climbed from 12% to 34% in that time. In 2010, 67% of astronomy doctorates went to US citizens, compared with 47% in physics.

From the combined 2007–09 classes, 48% of astronomy bachelors found employment in the months following graduation, and 45% pursued graduate degrees. Among those in the workforce, 46% were in the private sector; those in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields earned a median salary of \$50 000, double that earned in such non-STEM fields as retail and food service.

The 75% of new astronomy PhDs who took postdocs earned a median of \$50 000 in academia and about 10% more in government. Another 19% took potentially permanent positions, 4% accepted other temporary work, and 2% were unemployed.

The full reports, *Astronomy Enrollments and Degrees* and *Astronomy Degree Recipients: Initial Employment*, are available online at <http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/reports/astro2010.pdf> and <http://www.aip.org/statistics/trends/reports/astroemploy070809.pdf>, respectively. TF ■

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